

3.3.2 Kinetic and potential energies

Learning outcomes

Learners should be able to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and understanding of:

- (a) kinetic energy of an object; $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
- (b) gravitational potential energy of an object in a uniform gravitational field; $E_p = mgh$
- (c) the exchange between gravitational potential energy and kinetic energy.

Additional guidance

Learners will also be expected to recall this equation and derive it from first principles.
M0.5

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HSW5, 6

- (6) M - Recall and apply the equations for KE and GPE
- (7) S - Derive the equation for KE and GPE from first principles
- (8) C - Apply ideas about energy exchange between KE and GPE to problems

KE and GPE

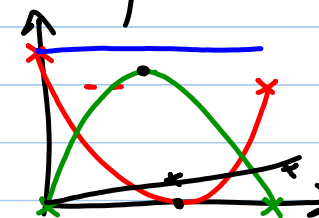
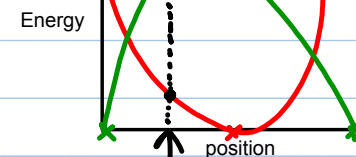
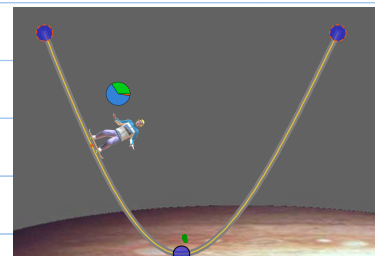


STARTER: Sketch a graph each of these energy types during skating from one side to the other

a) GPE b) Kinetic c) total energy



Extension: Explain how the graph shows the law of conservation of energy? How does it change when friction is included?



Energy

position

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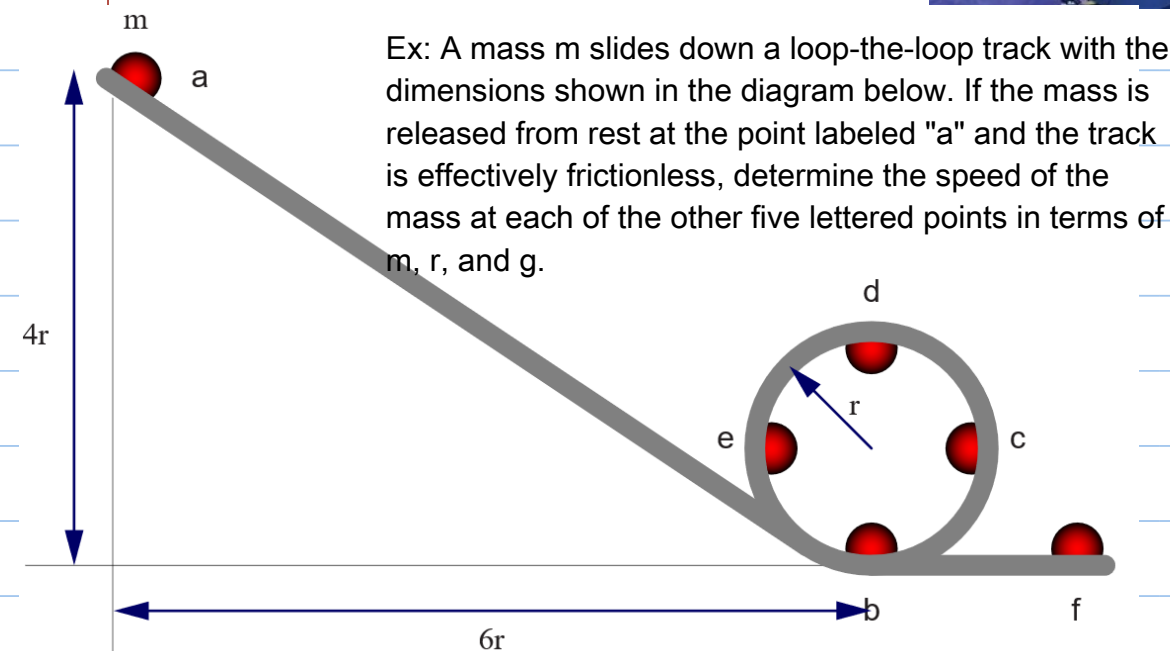
KE and GPE

Recall the equations for a) KE b) GPE
state the quantities and units.



Activity: Felix Baumgartner set the world skydiving record in october 2012 for falling from a height of 39 045m His mass (with gear) was 118Kg

1. Calculate his maximum theoretical speed upon landing.
2. Felix reached a speed of 370m/s. What is the ratio of KE measured / KE Max. Comment on the value.



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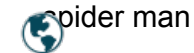
Mini plenary



Recall the equations for a) KE b) GPE
state the quantities and units.

Activity: Felix Baumgartner set the world skydiving record
in october 2012 for falling from a height of 39 045m His
mass (with gear) was 118Kg

1. Calculate the gravitational potential energy transferred during the fall.
2. Felix reached a speed of 370m/s. Calculate his KE at this speed.
3. Comment on both answers.



Watch the video below before beginning this problem. The height of the building [Spider-Man](#) (a.k.a. Peter Parker, a.k.a. Tobey McGuire) starts off on is 6 stories, or 18 meters high (assuming one story is 3 meters). The height of the building he wants to swing to is 1 story, or 3 meters high. The crane onto which he shoots his web is 7 stories, or 21 meters high. Tobey McGuire is 1.75 m tall and approximately 72 kg in mass. (Do not use the equations of motion to solve any part of this problem.)

Determine...

1. Spider-Man's speed when his feet touch the roof the second building
2. the maximum tension in Spider-Man's web during this video clip
3. the approximate kinetic energy dissipated when Spider-Man struck the wall

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Deriving the GPE equation

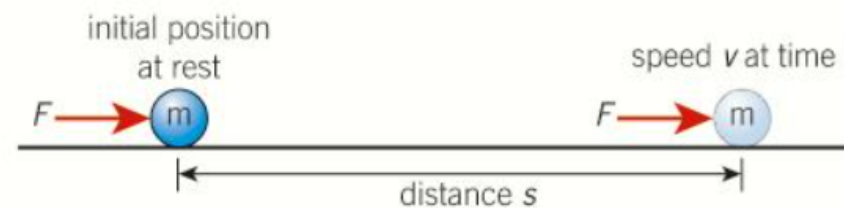
In raising an object upwards in gravitational field, work is done. This work is equal to the energy gained (GPE)

$E_p = W = F \times \text{distance move in the direction of the force}$

$$E_p = m \times g \times h$$



Deriving the KE equation



constant force acting on a mass, after time t and distance s it has speed v .

$$s = \frac{v^2}{2a} \quad v^2 = u^2 + 2as \quad \text{suvat}$$

Work done by force is transferred to KE

$$W = F \times s = \frac{Fv^2}{2a} = \frac{mav^2}{2a} = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

Force = mass \times acceleration...

Extension: Use the KE equation to derive the base unit for KE.

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Energy exchange demo



In this situation GPE is transferring into KE as the ball falls.

M=

h=



h



structured worksheet for this...

$$GPE = KE$$

$$mgh = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

$$gh = \frac{1}{2}v^2$$

$$2gh = v^2$$

$$v = \sqrt{2gh}$$

s = 2
t = 0.91
v =



2m

Predict by calculation the exit speed at the bottom of the ramp.

$$V = 3.57 \text{ ms}^{-1}$$

Measure the exit speed.

$$V = 2.19$$

Extension: What is the percentage difference between the values? Can you suggest 3 reasons for any difference?

- friction does work to reduce speed of ball.

- Energy loss in boundary

- No accounting for deceleration.

$$GPE = KE$$

$$m \times g \times h = \frac{1}{2}m \times v^2$$

$$2gh = v^2$$

$$v = \sqrt{2gh}$$

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Try the summary questions

1-7 P78

Plenary Q

- 8 Dan has a mass of 62 kg. He is travelling at a speed of 11 m s^{-1} at the top of a rollercoaster loop, which is 21.8 m above the ground.
- a Calculate:
- i his kinetic energy at the top of the loop (1 mark)
 - ii his change in gravitational potential energy between the top and bottom of the loop 0.8 m above the ground (2 marks)
 - iii his kinetic energy at the bottom of the loop, stating any assumption you have made in calculating your answer (3 marks)
 - iv his speed at the bottom of the loop. (2 marks)

Answers

- 8 a i $E_K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}(62 \text{ kg})(11 \text{ m s}^{-1})^2 = 3751 \text{ J} = 3.8 \text{ kJ}$ (two significant figures) (1 mark)
- ii $\Delta E_P = mg\Delta h$
 $= (62 \text{ kg})(9.81 \text{ m s}^{-2})(21.8 \text{ m} - 0.8 \text{ m})$ (1 mark)
 $= 12\,772 \text{ J} = 13 \text{ kJ}$ (two significant figures) (1 mark)
- iii E_K at bottom of slide = E_K at top of slide + E_K gained going down slide
 or E_K at bottom of slide = E_K at top of slide + decrease in E_P going down slide (1 mark)
 Assumption: increase in kinetic energy going down slide is equal to the decrease in E_P going down slide, assuming frictional forces are negligible. (1 mark)
 $E_K = 3750 \text{ J} + 12\,800 \text{ J} = 16\,550 \text{ J} = 17 \text{ kJ}$ (two significant figures) (1 mark)
- iv $E_K = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$
 $= \frac{1}{2}(62 \text{ kg})v^2$
 $= 16\,600 \text{ J}$ (1 mark)
 $v = \sqrt{2 \times \frac{16\,600 \text{ J}}{62 \text{ kg}}}$
 $= 23 \text{ m s}^{-1}$ (two significant figures) (1 mark)

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MC plenary

A ski jumper of mass 50.0 kg uses a launch track as shown in the figure. The initial drop in height is 40.0 m down a ramp and then the skier travels back up a launch ramp regaining 10.0 m of height before taking off. The total length of the launch track is 200 m, and the air resistance and contact with the ice cause an average frictional force of 10.0 N throughout the length of the track.

Calculate the launch speed of the skier as they leave the ramp.

Acceleration due to free fall = 9.81 m s^{-2}

- ☐ 26.6 m s^{-1}
- ☐ 28.0 m s^{-1}
- ☐ 22.6 m s^{-1}
- ☐ 24.3 m s^{-1}

